Looking Up in a Down Economy
Alumni look to new horizons.
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*Donors of $25 or more since July 1, 2008 will automatically receive a calendar.
Features

18 Shape Shifters
Generationally speaking, individuals do not react to the economic downturn in the same way, but for those seeking new careers, one thing is true across the generations: Reinvention is key.
By Heather Peavey Johns

24 Steel Requiem
A gift of sculpture to Bucknell University from the J. P. Morgan Chase collection pays homage to Detroit and its native son, metal artist Richard Stankiewicz.
By Andrew W.M. Beierle

26 Children of War
Meet a group of students who have faced civil war, food shortages and sniper attacks but are determined to use their Bucknell educations to effect positive change in their homelands.
By Theresa Garovas Medoff ’85, P’13

Departments

2 President’s Message
3 Letters
4 Moore Avenue
News & Notes
10 IQ
Research & Inquiry
12 ’Ray Bucknell
Student Life & Sports
14 The Mind & the Muse
Reviews & Criticism
16 Legacies
Gifts & Giving
32 Full Frame
34 Class Notes
Alumni Near & Far
64 Last Word

Bucknell Magazine

President’s Message

Answering the Challenge

Bucknell has felt the impact of the economic downturn in many ways. Students and their families have confronted new financial challenges, some of them extremely difficult. We had to freeze compensation for our faculty and staff. Around the world, alumni of all ages, across multiple professions, have faced the prospect of layoffs and other serious problems resulting from the worst economic turmoil in 80 years. When events like this global financial mess unfold, the reality that we are not just a university, but instead a community, becomes starkly clear.

The Bucknell community again has rallied in the face of adversity. For example:

- Alumni, parents and friends of the University met our internship challenge and offered more than 500 internships for Bucknell students this summer.
- Contributions to the University’s Annual Fund surpassed $10 million in cash gifts for the first time in Bucknell’s history.
- Total contributions through the fiscal year ending in July 2009 topped $45.7 million, the second-highest total in Bucknell’s history. This raises the campaign total to more than $122 million in cash gifts for the first time in Bucknell’s history.
- Parents gave a single-year record $1,422,000 and more than 42 percent of all current Bucknell parents contributed, including 45 percent of Class of 2012 parents—a record for first-year parent classes.
- New career networking and mentoring relationships have blossomed, including new professional networking initiatives and online communities (alumni can check them out at B-Link, the alumni online community).

Our thanks to all of you who have made these significant examples of volunteering, leadership and generosity possible, and for your continued commitment to Bucknell.

Meanwhile, the University set aside extra financial aid to ensure that we could help students with demonstrated financial need whose family resources changed due to global economic problems. We continue to do so. The Board and the administration are committed to protecting the strength of the University, whatever the economy may bring.

Which leads me to my final point: Perhaps the clearest indication of Bucknell’s enduring strength is that another stellar class has enrolled. The Class of 2013 totals 921 students. More than 7,500 applied to be part of it, and 2,261 were admitted. Our admissions rate was 29.8 percent, and our yield rate (the percentage of admitted students who enroll, a sign that we were their first choice) was 41 percent. Few universities can boast of such selectivity. These new Bucknellians have made it unequivocally clear that, whatever challenges lie ahead, they believe in the future of Bucknell too.

Brian C. Mitchell, President
Letters

‘RAY FOR THE CLASS OF ’59!
I feel that the Reunion article in the summer issue of Bucknell Magazine did not adequately convey the spirit of the Class of ’59. We won all three Reunion giving awards, the Pete Pedrick Cup for the class with the highest percent of participation (75.62 percent), the Reunion Cup for the highest amount for the annual fund ($684,554) and the President’s Cup for highest overall annual giving ($3,879,049). We exceeded the challenge to raise the minimum of $500,000 in unrestricted funds and, as a result of the generosity of the Class of 1959, the Terrace Room was named in our honor. These successes were a result of dedicated volunteers facing the challenge of soliciting donations during a severe downturn in our economy. Our events committee planned a fun weekend for all and inspired 149 of our classmates to return to campus winning the award for the highest percentage of returning classmates (34.76 percent). We also planned a special “Service of Remembrance” honoring our departed classmates who remain with us in spirit. One of our own, Stu Berelson, was presented with the “Loyalty to Bucknell” award for his service, dedication and commitment to our alma mater. We hope that future Reunion classes also will enjoy the love, memories and successes of the Class of ’59, and we challenge them to match or exceed our achievements.

Sylvia Beurregard Van Cleave ’59
Cedar Grove, N.J.

BAYOU ALUMNI
I am a Bucknell alumnus and live in New Orleans. I was not aware of the Katrina Recovery Team’s (KRT) efforts and presence in this city [summer 2009]. I am both appreciative and proud of them. I wish I had known of the KRT because I would like to have shown them some support in some fashion while they were here. I’m sure there are a number of other alumni here who also were unaware. Believe me, volunteers, such as those of the KRT, have done more to rebuild this city thus far than any of the state and federal funds have accomplished.

Jim Reese ’69
New Orleans, La.
Note: To learn more about the KRT, contact Kristine Kengor ’03 at kkengor@bucknell.edu.

POSS PAST
I just read your article on the first Posse graduates [summer 2009]. As a school counselor, I’m happy to see that my alma mater recognizes that some students just need to be given a little help and the opportunity to show what they can do. I came to Bucknell with a posse of my own 26 years ago. We were Deppen Scholars who were fortunate to receive scholarships from our benefactor, Joseph Deppen, a self-made man from my hometown of Mount Carmel, Pa. Joseph started a scholarship program in the late 1960s in memory of his sister Gertrude, since she did not have the same opportunities because she was a woman. Many of the Deppen scholars were first-generation college students, as are many of the students in the Posse program. We did not come from expensive prep schools, or we may not have had the same college board scores, but we did have the desire and determination to get a college degree. Coming to Bucknell from Mount Carmel for many of us was just as different as the students coming from the urban areas in the Posse program. But, it didn’t stop us from doing well once we got there. The Deppen Scholarship has become a very successful program at Bucknell and is still going strong to this day. I am thankful each and every day, to both the Bucknell community and Joseph Deppen, for giving me the opportunity to receive such a wonderful education. I give much credit to Bucknell for continuing its commitment to helping students like those in the Posse program.

Beth Ann Flowers Slusser ’87, MS’89
Lewisburg, Pa.

ERRATA ERRATA
Regarding the letter writer in the summer issue who “corrected” Baltic states to Balkan states … No! No! No! My half-Lithuanian blood protests! The letter writer is wrong. Estonia is one of the Baltic states, not a Balkan state. He again tries to put Estonia in the Balkans, which refers to the countries of the Balkan Peninsula, east of Italy and west of the Black Sea. The Baltics include Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. Their western border is the Baltic Sea. This information is according to my antiquated Webster’s dictionary and a current map.

And the film, The Singing Revolution, is wonderful. Your reviewer is right on about that. All three Baltic states carry on the singing festival tradition.

Diane Horton Weighart ’57
Naples, Fla.

PULITZER PRIZE-WINNING POET
As interesting as your piece was on Guy Payne 1909 in the summer issue, your readers might also be interested in the identity of the student on the far right in the photo that accompanied the “Last Word” essay. He was a classmate and friend I knew as Charlie Williams ’58. He also is known as C.K. Williams, a Pulitzer-winning poet and author of 10 or so books. His poems are published occasionally in The New Yorker; most recently, of which, “Dust,” appeared there on Aug. 3, 2009.

David Block ’58
Greenwich, Conn.

WEB EXCLUSIVES
Go to www.bucknell.edu/bmagazine to check out this issue’s web exclusives:
• New and Promoted Faculty Profiles
• Download Fall Campus Beauty Photos
• Photo Galleries: Class of 2013 Orientation
• Video: Herb Wilcox, Co-Developer of the First Lunar Camera
Managing Admissions in a Time of Changing Demographics

New admissions dean sees challenge, opportunity ahead.

By Molly O’Brien-Foelsch M’98

Bucknell University’s new dean of admissions, Rob Springall, wants to make sure that 21st-century students are prepared to deal with 21st-century global issues. He believes that Bucknell is a good place for students to get that preparation, so he embraced the opportunity to head up the Office of Admissions. “Bucknell has great programs, a great campus and great faculty and staff. It offers the liberal arts infused with selected professional programs and a plethora of resources,” he says.

“I seek to capitalize on Bucknell’s strengths and find new ways to reach out to prospective students.”

Springall began as dean on July 1 after working five years as associate director of undergraduate admissions at the University of Central Florida. In his new role at Bucknell, he leads admissions in recruiting and selecting entering classes, and manages the strategy behind that recruitment. Bucknell annually enrolls about 925 first-year students from nearly 8,000 applicants.

Springall cites recent data as proof of Bucknell’s popularity among prospective students. “The University admits fewer than 30 percent of applicants, and more than 40 percent of those admitted students choose to enroll. These numbers speak to the attractiveness of the University.”

Admissions may be experiencing success at Bucknell, but the current recruiting environment also has its challenges. Among them, according to Springall, are the economic downturn and demographic shifts. “These challenges suggest that we can’t take for granted that everyone who’s a great contributor to Bucknell already knows about the University and is inclined to apply.”

The economic downturn, for instance, means that the University must clearly explain why the value of a private liberal arts education is still worth the investment families are asked to make.
Meanwhile, the total college-age population will decrease in the next decade and shrink in the Northeast, while the number of prospective students will grow in the West and South. Springall says of these changes, “It is imperative that we think about doing things differently.” He views the shift as an opportunity to ensure that Bucknell has a nationally and internationally infused student body. “Today’s students need to interact with people of many backgrounds,” he says.

To find the right students – those who are academically engaged, community-minded and globally focused – Bucknell has already extended its geographic reach. California, formerly home to few Bucknell students, is now the seventh-most-represented state among current enrollees. Global recruitment has expanded too: There are currently 125 undergraduate international students on campus, up from 88 in 2004. Springall hopes to further develop the University’s national and international recruitment programs.

He brings 18 years of experience to Bucknell, including expertise with admissions at both selective institutions and at places that were seeking to grow enrollment. His résumé includes positions at Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT), the University of Vermont and Cornell. He holds a bachelor’s degree in computer science from RIT and a master’s degree in higher education from the University of South Carolina.

“Rob brings high levels of talent, experience, enthusiasm, energy, commitment to the profession and dedication to students — a compelling combination,” says Kurt Thiede, vice president for enrollment management. “I am convinced that he will build on recent advances on the admissions front and take the program to the next level. We are very glad to have him as part of the enrollment management team and the leader for our admissions efforts in these very challenging times.”

Springall says he looks forward to working with the broader Bucknell community to identify the next generation of Bucknellians.

New Kids on the Quad
The Class of 2013 is already making its mark.

First-year student William Farley is likely the only member of the Class of 2013 to have visited both the mythical precincts of Lake Wobegon, Minn., and the hallowed halls of the White House. As a result of his victory at the 2009 National Poetry Out Loud National Recitation Contest, Farley, who was president of his class at Washington-Lee High School in Arlington, Va., was invited to recite a poem on A Prairie Home Companion and to meet President Barack Obama at the first-ever White House poetry jam. He bested some 300,000 other high school students to win the honor.

Farley joins 921 other accomplished students in the Class of 2013, representing 37 states and the District of Columbia, as well as 39 countries. Among his classmates are Lewisburg High School graduate Alex Ororbia, whose computer-animated film, Creative Chaos, won best in graphic design at the Packwood House Museum and placed among the top 20 in the FreshBrain Scholarship competition nationally. Amy Atkins, from Warren, N.J., was among those recently honored by the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association as one of the state’s finest student-athletes. An honor student and field hockey and lacrosse standout, she captained both teams in her senior year. Another athlete, track star Hunter Church of Branford, Conn., hopes to become a physician who provides care for those, like his brother, Spencer, who face life-threatening diseases.

The entering class was culled from 7,572 applicants, to whom admission was offered to 2,263, a 29.89 percent admissions rate. Nearly 41 percent of those enrolled, one of the nation’s highest yield rates. Median SAT scores ranged from 1250–1380.

Fifty-one percent of the class is female; 8.7 percent are children or grandchildren of alumni. Minority students account for 13.8 percent of the class. International students came from Australia, Bangladesh, Belarus, Bermuda, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, Croatia, Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea, Denmark, Ethiopia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Indonesia, Ireland, Jamaica, Mexico, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Serbia, South Africa, Sweden, Taiwan, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, the United Kingdom and Vietnam. —Sam Alcorn

Watch Class of 2013 Orientation photo galleries at www.bucknell.edu/bmagazine.
A New Catholic Chaplain
Father Fred Wangwe joins University ministry.

By Julia Ferrante

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades has named the Rev. Fred Wangwe Catholic chaplain at Bucknell University. Born in the village of Bumalah in Uganda, Father Wangwe comes to Bucknell from St. Joseph’s Parish in Mechanicsburg, Pa., where he served as assistant parish priest since November 2006. He served as assistant parish priest of the St. Rose of Lima in York, Pa., for the previous two years.

“We welcome Father Fred,” says University Chaplain the Rev. Thomasina A. Yuille. “He will bring an enlightened global perspective to the University’s ongoing conversation between faith and practice, and we are delighted that he is joining the Bucknell community.”

Father Wangwe studied in Kenya and Uganda in preparation for the priesthood and in 1993 received a diploma in theology from the Apostles of Jesus Theologicum in Nairobi, Kenya. He was ordained in December 1999 at the A.J. Shrine at Langata in Nairobi and received his bachelor of arts in sacred theology from the Pontifical Urbaniana University in Rome in 2000.

Father Wangwe served as assistant parish priest at the Sirari Catholic Parish and the Bunda Catholic Parish in Musoma Diocese of Uganda before coming to the United States. He joins Assistant Catholic Minister Suzanne Domzalski, who has been with Bucknell for two years.

The Rev. Michael C. Letteer, who had served as Catholic chaplain at Bucknell since June 2007, has been appointed by Bishop Rhoades as the parochial vicar of two parishes: St. Rose of Lima and the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, both in York.

Meeting of the Minds
Neurosurgeon to speak at 160th Commencement.

By Julia Ferrante

Benjamin S. Carson Sr., renowned pediatric neurosurgeon and philanthropist, will deliver the commencement address during Bucknell University’s 160th annual graduation ceremony on Sunday, May 23, 2010.

After a childhood in a poverty-stricken, single-parent home, Carson rose to become a professor of neurosurgery, oncology, plastic surgery and pediatrics at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. Carson is president and co-founder of the Carson Scholars Fund and co-founder of Angels of the O.R., which provides grants for medical expenses not covered by insurance. The movie Gifted Hands: The Ben Carson Story, starring Cuba Gooding Jr. as Carson, is based on Carson’s memoir.

“Dr. Carson’s story of perseverance, achievement and caring is an inspiration,” says Langston Tingling-Clemmons ’10. “He has shown that it is important to test the limits as we go out into the world to see what a difference we can make.”
Q&A

Herb Wilcox ’50 led the team of engineers that built the picture tube for the video camera that recorded Neil Armstrong’s first steps on the moon. Forty years later, Wilcox pauses to look back.

By David Pacchioli

Q: What were the technical challenges involved?

A: In addition to functioning in that odd environment, the lunar camera had to be very small and very light, about seven pounds. At that time, television cameras — it took two people to pick them up and put them on a tripod. They weighed about 200 pounds. Building the tube was like building a ship in a bottle — a very small bottle. We made dozens of these devices. Those that met or exceeded specifications were as valuable as jewels.

Q: Yet you say the camera’s real importance was as a PR tool ....

A: The TV images from the moon were, by modern standards, rather crude, even falling far short of commercial TV at that time. But they were real time, and that was absolutely critical. To this day there are conspiracy theorists who will swear the whole thing was filmed on the back lot of some motion picture studio or out in the desert. Suppose for a moment that there had been no TV system. Who would’ve believed it was really happening?

Q: Where were you in July 1969, during the landing?

A: My wife and I and our three kids were spending the weekend with my grandparents in Philadelphia. We watched it, of course. Another interviewer asked me, “Weren’t you excited? Didn’t you jump up and down?” That wasn’t the case. I knew those tubes were the best we could do. I figured if the camera didn’t fall apart on impact it was going to work. And it did.

Q: What are your thoughts looking back at this Apollo anniversary and your part in it?

A: It was a watershed moment, the end point of the old science of electronic vacuum tubes. This was as good as they could get, and anything better had to be, well, solid state. I think it’s ironic and somewhat sad that two of the major players, Westinghouse and RCA, no longer exist. But something that I held in my hands, me and a few other people, is still sitting up there on the moon.

To see an exclusive interview with Herb Wilcox, go to www.bucknell.edu/bmagazine.

Herb Wilcox ’50 led the team of engineers that built the picture tube for the video camera that recorded Neil Armstrong’s first steps on the moon.

By David Pacchioli

OLD SCHOOL NETWORK
Bucknell’s Alumni Relations and Career Services office was noted by the New York Times in an article about how universities are offering support to alumni hit by unemployment. Bucknell reached out to 47 alumni at collapsing Lehman Brothers, offering them access to career counseling services, a network of alumni and a job database.

EASY BEING GREEN
USA Today reports how universities are incorporating environmental studies into their core curricula. Dina El-Mogazi, director of the Campus Greening Initiatives, explains that Bucknell has developed a new curriculum that will require that all students take at least one class that explores the human connection to the environment.

SUMMER SCHOOL BY CHOICE?
In a story on the increasing popularity of undergraduate summer studies, The Philadelphia Inquirer reports that schools like Bucknell are seeing an upward trend in the number of students participating in summer schooling. Bucknell had 39 undergraduates performing research during the summer months.

GRAND PICK
FoxBusiness.com announced that Kenneth G. Langone ’57 will be the grand marshal for New York City’s 65th Columbus Day Parade on Oct. 12. Langone, the co-founder of Home Depot and chairman of the NYU Langone Medical Center, will lead the 35,000-strong parade past crowds of nearly one million people celebrating Italian and Italian-American culture.

(Subscribe at www.bucknell.edu/bmagazine)
Research Focus

University names first director of research and sponsored programs.

By Julie Dreese

Joanne Romagni-Colvin, a biology professor who established the Office of Sponsored Programs at St. Edward's University in Austin, Texas, has been named Bucknell University’s first director of research and sponsored programs.

“Across campus, the impact of the Office of Sponsored Research will be apparent as we facilitate the increase in awards for research projects, curricular development, new instrumentation, and other new programs, all of which will add to the quality of education that Bucknell offers,” says Romagni-Colvin.

Romagni-Colvin has extensive experience with grants and has established strong relationships with granting agencies. She has served on several federal review panels, including the National Science Foundation, and recently was awarded an NSF award to establish international Research Experiences for Undergraduates at the University of Cádiz, where she spent the summer doing research.

“We hope to enhance faculty career development and bring to fruition projects which, without grant support, may not otherwise have been possible,” says Romagni-Colvin.

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LIFELONG LEARNING

New institute offers classes to the community.

A taste of Bucknell education is now being offered to learners of all ages in the Central Susquehanna Valley this fall thanks to the new Bucknell Institute for Lifelong Learning.

The institute debuted earlier this month with a pilot group of eight courses over a six-week period. Students of all ages and backgrounds in the community are welcome. Complete details of the institute, including full descriptions of courses and registration forms, can be found at www.bucknell.edu/lifelonglearning.

— Julie Dreese

Professor of German and Humanities Katie Faull was awarded a $100,000 grant from the National Endowment for Humanities for her collaborative research and translations of the 18th-century Moravian diaries, most of which were written in German. The project also has been designated an NEH “We the People” project and will be supported in part by funds for that initiative.
New and Proved

Faculty changes reflect growth, success on campus.

By Barbara Maynard ’88

The Bucknell faculty has much to celebrate this fall. Twenty-five faculty members have been promoted, and 28 new assistant professors have been welcomed aboard in disciplines across campus. At a time when economic crisis has forced many academic institutions to cut positions, Bucknell stands out in its dedication to its teacher-scholars.

“Bucknell has continued to be committed to tenure-track faculty as the primary way to deliver our undergraduate curriculum,” says University Provost Mick Smyer. “Visiting faculty and adjunct faculty play an important supportive role, but our primary focus is tenure-track faculty. That makes us distinctive as you look across American higher education.”

Eight faculty members were promoted from associate to full professor, and 17 advanced from assistant to associate professor. The teaching and scholarship of these new and promoted faculty members already has a global impact. From leading study-abroad programs in Nicaragua, to directing the international Toni Morrison society and conducting research in sites spread from the seas off Turkey to the upper atmosphere, Bucknell’s faculty is a gifted and motivated team.

“We are continuing to attract very talented, very strong individuals. The common element is that they are really dedicated to and excited about working with undergraduates,” Smyer says. “Regardless of discipline or specific scholarly interest, the common element is they really get excited and passionate about how they can introduce undergraduates to the field that they have found so rewarding.” Perhaps it is no surprise that this year’s promotions and new additions include several Bucknell alumni, each eager to return to Bucknell to share the same enthusiasm for teaching and learning that nurtured their own education.

Visit us online at www.bucknell.edu to read profiles of each of the 53 promoted or newly hired faculty members.

Richard Crago, professor of civil and environmental engineering, was one of eight faculty members recently awarded the rank of full professor.

The search for a new University president is underway. Steve Holmes ’79, the parent of three Bucknell students (’06, ’08, ’12), has been named as head of the Presidential Search Committee. Holmes is chairman and CEO of Wyndham Worldwide Corporation. President Brian C. Mitchell has announced he will step down on June 30, 2010.

The 2009 USTFCCCA Hall of Fame class includes Arthur “Art” Gulden, architect of the cross-country and track and field programs at Bucknell. During his 31 years at Bucknell, the Bison won 68 conference titles. Gulden also was named the Patriot League Coach of the Year 20 times during his career. He was inducted posthumously into the Bucknell Athletics Hall of Fame.

The Bucknell University Externship Program is now being offered to sophomores. This short-term, usually two-day, job shadow opportunity during winter break allows students to learn about the working world in an industry of interest, while externship sponsors can give back to the University and stay connected. Interested sponsors should contact the Career Development Center at 570-577-1238.
Most professors take their work home with them. Associate Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering Stephen Buonopane brought his house to work.

As part of a Campus Heritage Grant that Bucknell received from the Getty Foundation, Buonopane worked with engineering and art history students to research the history and status of several of the University’s older buildings. His students wanted to compare the properties of old versus new bricks. The old bricks came from a recently dismantled chimney in Buonopane’s 1846 downtown Lewisburg residence.

Buonopane also has researched and documented the engineering history of 19th and early 20th century bridges. For one project, he acquired pieces of bridges demolished near Lewisburg, including a massive steel connection built in 1902. Students disassembled the joint, made careful measurements and created a three-dimensional computer model.

“Modern engineers would look at these old bridges and say that doesn’t make sense,” Buonopane says. “My approach is to look at it almost like an archeologist, where this is a historic artifact of engineering, and you can learn something about the people that designed it and built it. You can learn something about their culture – what they knew, what they didn’t know, what they understood and maybe what they misunderstood.”

Buonopane, who holds the Rooke Chair in the Historical and Social Context of Engineering, often comes across revivals of historic techniques in modern structures. “I have a file where I keep track of articles promoting this great new idea that is actually 100 years old,” he says. “The laws of physics don’t change, so a lot of these old ideas are actually pretty good.”

Buonopane also studies how uncertainty and randomness affect the safety of structures. “This is not to suggest that we build in an unsafe fashion,” he says. “The idea is if you understand it better, you can build or design in a safer fashion.”

Renaissance Engineer
Stephen Buonopane studies the past and designs for the future.

By Barbara Maynard ’88

FACULTY PROFILE
Virginia Zimmerman

Once a year or so, a group of students chase after each other on the Academic Quad. They aren’t quite hopping or skipping as they concentrate on their steps, but they are enjoying themselves. This isn’t a dance class, but one of Associate Professor of English Virginia Zimmerman’s poetry classes playing meter tag.

The recipient of the Presidential Award for Teaching Excellence in 2009, Zimmerman doesn’t teach the rhythms of poetry with written slashes and dashes to indicate stressed and unstressed syllables. Instead, she asks students to invent steps to fit the rhythm and play a form of tag in which each team may move only with a given metrical foot.

Zimmerman strives to find the unexpected in the traditional subjects she teaches. Her “Young Adult Fiction” students discover how much meaning can be hidden in so-called easy reading. “When they read Middlemarch, they expect to discover that there is a lot going on,” she says. “When they read Peter Pan, they don’t expect it to be complicated.”

Whether challenging students to move to the rhythm of poetry or see familiar literature in new ways, Zimmerman exposes students to eye-opening ideas. In and out of the classroom, her award-winning approach to teaching builds a strong foundation of student rapport and learning.

— Barbara Maynard ’88
Persistence, and Then Some
Nana-Sinkam overcomes injuries and honors a friend.
By David Driver

Sam Nana-Sinkam ’10 has worn No. 58 throughout his football career at Bucknell, where he won the Stuart M. Smith Award as the most valuable newcomer as a first-year in 2006. But this season, Nana-Sinkam will switch to No. 6 in honor of former teammate A.J. Pompliano ’10, who was deployed to Iraq last season and is slated to return to Lewisburg for the spring semester.

“I really wanted to do something for him and let him know he was still in our minds and hearts,” Nana-Sinkam says of his friend, with whom he tries to communicate weekly. “We think we are working hard [in football], but he is doing something we can’t even begin to think about.”

Nana-Sinkam, a senior linebacker for the Bison, has had his own physical challenges during his college career. But the product of Manheim Township High School in Lancaster County wouldn’t dream of comparing them to those of Pompliano. Nana-Sinkam missed the entire 2007 season with a shoulder injury. Last year, he broke an ankle in the sixth game of the season.

“I felt I had let everyone down,” says Nana-Sinkam, who led Bucknell and the Patriot League in overall tackles for the season at 62 when he was injured.

“I know it was a trying time for him,” Bucknell Head Coach Tim Landis says. “He hung in there and fought through it.” Sinkam went to Landis’ office last spring and, healing from his ankle injury, told Landis he was committed to play in 2010. “He is mature beyond his years. He is a coach’s dream. He really plays for the love of the game,” says Landis. “He wants to do well, and he wants others to rise to that level.”

Nana-Sinkam also takes his spirit of tenacity to the classroom. He won the Arthur Ashe Sports Scholar Award earlier this year. He earned Dean’s List and Patriot League Academic Honor Roll honors in 2006 and 2008 and had a 4.0 GPA last semester. A management major, he will graduate in the spring with an overall GPA around 3.6.

This past summer, he was an intern at the national headquarters of Target in Minneapolis. He oversaw three other college interns. Their team did research and analysis of how Target could improve what type of sporting equipment to put in its stores, based on the popularity of a sport in a certain area. Nana-Sinkam says his team projected Target could increase its sales of sporting goods by $120 million annually with such an approach. He would like to pursue marketing or consulting after he graduates, though Landis points out the Bucknell linebacker could apply for another year of football, since 2009 will be just his third season with the Bison.
When Grace Han '11 was conducting her college search, her father, Sherwin Xiaowen Han '85, recommended Bucknell University. Although her father spoke highly of his college experience, Han had no idea about the world of opportunity she would discover here.

As a first-year student, Han traveled with the Bucknell Brigade to Nicaragua, where she witnessed first-hand the plight of the former Nicaraguan banana workers, many of whom were sick and dying from exposure to illegal toxic pesticides. Han and her fellow students felt desperate to help in any way they could. Upon returning to Bucknell, they applied for a $10,000 grant available through 100 Projects for Peace, a Davis Foundation grant, to help tell the banana workers’ story. With a deadline only two days away, the students worked tirelessly to perfect their proposal. Their hard work paid off when they became one of 81 grant recipients and used the money to return to Nicaragua to create the documentary Missing Seeds and launch www.hearoutyellow.org. Han attended the Clinton Global Initiative this past spring to promote her group’s work.

Through the experience, she was reminded how even just one person has the potential to create change in the world. “We really were just six lucky students who got excited about something and made something happen,” says Han. “I think the biggest discourager to young people is that they feel so small against the many big problems that exist in the world. The most important factor in completing the project was that our hearts were totally and completely in it.”

Han, who is from a close-knit Chinese-Armenian family, has decided to follow her dream of making a difference in the world, first, as an international relations major and, hopefully, after graduation as a Peace Corps volunteer.

“I don’t feel very accomplished at all. I think it’s important for students to understand that solving problems such as these is not an easy feat. It is an ongoing struggle,” says Han. But she does believe in the power of inspiring people to do something they are passionate about regardless of their skill level or the odds against them.

— Julie Dreese

Kate Matelan ’10 was crowned Ms. Wheelchair U.S.A. 2009–10, the highest honor in a program dedicated to celebrating the abilities and successes of women with disabilities.

Matelan, a quadriplegic after a car accident at 5, dazzled the judges at the national competition with her accomplishments and platform on creating disability awareness. Matelan is a business management major and resident adviser who volunteers with her sorority, Delta Gamma, and acts as writer, editor, secretary and alumni-relations manager for Bucknell’s student-run fashion magazine, BE.

“Having a disability does not hinder me from achieving my goals nor does it mean that I have boundaries put on my future possibilities,” she says. “Disability awareness is key in creating an improved future for everyone with disabilities.”

Matelan will travel the country as Ms. Wheelchair U.S.A. to promote disability awareness.
Christopher Camuto

*Time and Tide in Acadia*  
(*W. W. Norton & Co.*)  

Associate Professor of English Christopher Camuto has long been admired by outdoor enthusiasts for his writings on the Appalachia wilderness. In his new book, *Time and Tide in Acadia*, he reveals his other passion, coastland Maine, particularly Mount Desert Island where he keeps a summer home. This dramatic landscape inspires his most accomplished work to date in which he studies “the nature of nature” in lyrical, urgent prose that puts the reader directly on the trails of Acadia National Park, seeing, hearing and feeling the place as he does. He effortlessly weaves travelogue with lessons in animal and plant life and human and geological history. By the end of the book he has made progress in answering that eternal question, “What are we looking for in the sea?”

Peter Balakian ’73

*Black Dog of Fate*  
(*Basic Books*)  

The 10th anniversary edition of Peter Balakian’s PEN/Albrand award-winning memoir *Black Dog of Fate* includes new chapters recounting further experiences in pursuit of his grandparents’ fate in the 1915 Turkish-led genocide of ethnic Armenians. In 2005, Balakian took advantage of a guest poet turn in the Middle East to locate the terminus of the death march his grandmother and aunts barely survived. This meant crossing into Syria at a time when its relations with America were deteriorating precipitously. The narrative effectively captures the mood and history of the city of Aleppo and the impact of finding bones upon crushed bones, some of which could have belonged to his grandfather, in a desert burial field.

Robert Nylen ’66

*Guts* (*Random House*)

It does not seem possible that Bob Nylen is gone, especially since he lives out loud on the pages of the frank memoir he finished shortly before his death last December. Funny and opinionated, he takes a long look at his own endless capacity to run toward trouble, a trait that took him into fierce combat in Vietnam, gave him the wherewithal to pursue careers in advertising, publishing, writing and teaching, and ultimately to battle cancer. He was a tough guy’s tough guy, and *Guts* is a frank appraisal of what that has meant in the world of the last 50 years. In the end, it is as much about the human condition as it is about one man.

Mark Kiselica MS’85

*When Boys Become Parents*  
(*Rutgers University Press*)  

From years spent as a counselor, therapist, professor, research fellow and award-winning author, Mark Kiselica understands that the traditionally invisible factor in teen pregnancy, the young father, requires significant education and emotional support to stem the social problems associated with unwed parenthood. In his latest book, Kiselica observes that risky sexual behavior can result from many different factors, including peer pressure, lack of education, childhood sexual abuse, dysfunctional homes and emotional disorders. He champions pioneering programs emphasizing counseling, career guidance and/or legal support that have produced results, and reviews media and online resources for these young men. He concludes with recommendations for policy reform to promote effective prevention and to help those who already are fathers become responsible parents.
Harry M. Bobonich MS’58
Pathfinders and Pioneers: Women in Science, Math and Medicine (Infinity)

History has largely ignored the women of science, but they have been since the dawn of modern inquiry making significant discoveries. 

Harry Bobonich, professor emeritus and dean of research at Shippensburg University, recognizes women who advanced science in the late 19th and 20th centuries in Pathfinders and Pioneers, a book intended for general readers. Of the 11 profiled, Rachel Carson and Admiral Grace Hopper are familiar names, but their careers bear repeating alongside those of the pioneer in chemotherapy, the first person to explain nuclear fission theory, the world’s leading limnologist, a gifted mathematician, a Nobel-winning biochemist and other groundbreakers. Bobonich hopes their stories will inspire more young women to consider careers in mathematics and science.

Makoto Fujimura ’83
Refractions (NavPress)

In 2003, Makoto Fujimura, an internationally acclaimed artist and church leader, was appointed to the National Council on the Arts. This came as he continued to struggle with the aftershock of Sept. 11, 2001. He began a practice of Saturday morning reflective writing through which he reached for the healing power of art to re-humanize a shattered world. His book Refractions, richly illustrated with color plates of his and other artists’ work, collects many of these very readable, contemplative essays that are an amalgam of art criticism, philosophy and spiritual journey. “Theologically speaking,” he writes, “we are all living in the ashes of Ground Zero, in our own Waste Land. But we carry the dust of Eden in our DNA.” 

Norma Skow Smayda Staley ’55
Weaving Designs by Bertha Gray Hayes (Schiffer)

In 1976, Norma Skow Smayda Staley, a member of the Weaver’s Guild of Rhode Island, discovered the scrapbooks and sample cards of Bertha Gray Hayes (1878–1947) that comprise the most comprehensive overshot archive in America. The collection was bequeathed to the Guild, and Smayda and her colleagues have produced an attractive book documenting its contents in color photographs and accompanying historical notes.

Jim Zervanos ’92
LOVE Park (Cable Publishing)

The physical and cultural landscape of Philadelphia pervades the debut novel from Jim Zervanos. Its title, LOVE Park, is taken from Robert Indiana’s famed sculpture located at JFK Plaza and 15th Street that provides an apt background for the story of 26-year-old Peter Pappas, a would-be writer who is just trying to find himself, and possibly discover what love is too. That he still lives in his parents’ house where traditional immigrant Greek values collide noisily with contemporary American realities does not help. Neither does stumbling upon secrets about his perfect brother, his rebellious sister and their father, a highly regarded Greek Orthodox priest. And then, in walks Daisy Diamond, his own Mrs. Robinson, and life starts happening in spades.

Richard L. Hamilton ’74

Technical writers have not always enjoyed visibility and respect. More often than not, they comprise the clean-up crew after the creative party breaks up. Richard Hamilton had no intention of staying in the field of documentation management when he accepted a position over 20 years ago, but he remained there by choice. He found that end projects and customer satisfaction were enhanced by injecting the documentation process into project development from the outset. Managing Writers emphasizes the smaller-scale teams that are becoming the industry norm and offers advice for all phases of a project.

James Stuart Gessner ’56
Spaceship Earth (Wild River)

James Gessner asks, “If you saw a child running toward a truck, you would try to rescue it, correct?” That is the theme of his call-to-action to save the earth from environmental catastrophe — Spaceship Earth, a book published in PDF on DVD. Gessner envisions the planet as a spaceship and his book as the operating manual. Spaceship Earth is in very bad condition, and he predicts it will take 70 years to repair it if everyone, from scientists to children to legislators, steps up and takes responsibility. In a cleverly illustrated text accessible to readers/users of all ages, he assesses the damage done and how to get the ship running again. His motto for the future: “If you create it, you must be responsible for its end products, and their safe return to the environment.”

“The Mind & the Muse” is written by Claudia Ebeling, who has been reviewing books for Bucknell since 1982. Submit books for review to kmagazine@bucknell.edu.
Silver Lining

The global economy slams charitable giving to higher education, but support for Bucknell stays strong.

By Christina Masciere Wallace

When Jim Leahy ’03 lost his Wall Street job as an equities analyst last fall, one of the first things he did was reach out to his Bucknell network — friends, former professors and even administrators. At a local alumni event, President Brian C. Mitchell encouraged Leahy to send him his résumé to help broaden his search.

Throughout his job search, Leahy continued making gifts to the Annual Fund, just as he has always done since graduation.

“I knew that Bucknell had been looking out for me, which was very comforting, so I felt that it was almost necessary to keep giving,” says Leahy. “I’m grateful for the environment that the University created for me as a student, and continues to create for me as an alum.”

Despite the financial challenges of the past year, Bucknellians around the world continued their consistent support of the University. The Bucknell Annual Fund raised a record $10 million in unrestricted cash gifts, making it one of just three schools, along with Middlebury and Wesleyan, in a 34-member peer group to reach this level in fiscal 2009.

Total gifts and pledges to Bucknell that were received between July 1, 2008 and June 30, 2009 topped $45.7 million — the second highest total in University history — even as the U.S. economy suffered its most difficult challenges in 80 years. In addition, the Parents Fund raised $1.4 million, a program record; and bequests to Bucknell exceeded $20 million for the second year in a row.

“Bucknellians are exceedingly loyal to the University,” says Sam Lundquist, vice president for development and alumni relations. “As the comprehensive campaign continues, we are grateful that they continue to prioritize Bucknell in their philanthropy. The Annual Fund provides a way for donors at every giving level to do that.”

The Annual Fund allows the University to direct funding quickly to the areas of greatest need during the current fiscal year. Because it supports all areas of the institution — including academics, student life, the arts, the campus and athletics — the Annual
“Bucknellians identify strongly with the University,” says Ken Freeman ’72, chair of the campaign and chair of the Board of Trustees. “And they are savvy. They understand that this is not the time to pull back or lower expectations. They continue to invest in Bucknell because they place a strong value on a Bucknell education. We have great momentum for the campaign and The Plan for Bucknell. The economy will rebound — and Bucknell will emerge in an even stronger position.”

Vincent Mistretta ’86, P’12, an investor who recently left his position in financial services to assess his career direction, agrees. “Putting The Plan for Bucknell into place was a really important step. I’ve always thought that every institution needs a long-term plan.”

Mistretta and his wife, Lee Ann ’86, have been Annual Fund donors since they graduated. Now, as Bucknell parents, they are seeing the fruits of their support for the University. “The facilities continue to improve, and the number of faculty relative to the number of students has grown significantly. We’re also happy that the University has plans for a management college,” he says. “Sending one of our children to Bucknell is about as strong a statement as we can make.”

Leahy, who recently landed a job in investor relations, echoes that confidence. “To me, the University’s future is bright,” he says. “Bucknell is positioning itself for the next hundred years. I want to be a supporter of that growth and a part of that vision.”

Green and Secure

In keeping with Bucknell’s commitment to good stewardship of financial and environmental resources, the annual Honor Roll of Donors & Volunteers is now completely paperless. Alumni, parents and friends who made gifts to Bucknell or volunteered in FY09 will have secure access to the electronic version. Watch for an e-mail with your password this fall.
WORKING ALUMNI FROM ALL GENERATIONS DISCOVER THAT BEING EMPLOYED IN THIS TURBULENT ECONOMY REQUIRES REINVENTION, INNOVATION AND FLEXIBILITY.

BY HEATHER PEAVEY JOHNS • ILLUSTRATION BY TINA ULLMAN
Being downsized out of a career is rarely an easy adjustment, but when it happens at the end of a career, it can be particularly devastating. “I stared blankly at the person giving me the news. A voice in my head just kept repeating, ‘Say nothing.’ When he was finished, I simply took the packet of papers and left the room without a word,” remembers Betty Kordes Samuels ’62. “I had been blind-sided. When I reached my office, I fell apart crying and left. It was a Friday at about 2 p.m. I left a Post-It on my computer that said, ‘Had to leave early.’ Then I cried most of the way home.”
Samuels knew the economy was bad and that the large hospital where she worked, located just outside of Philadelphia, was in trouble. But she never dreamed her many years of dedicated service as the administrative assistant for the chief of the Department of Anesthesiology would be deemed, in the face of the hospital’s financial struggle, all but irrelevant.

“I had been taking on more and more responsibilities when, after 16 years and just two years short of retirement, I was summoned to our conference room to learn that my job was going to be restructured to a half-time job, meaning half-pay, half-vacation, half-benefits,” remembers Samuels. “This was not acceptable.”

Rather than suffer the constraints of her restructured job, Samuels, at the age of 67, chose to begin again and seek new employment. However, she soon discovered that she was competing with many equally skilled applicants for very few jobs, and she wasn’t alone. The hard-hit economy rendered many Bucknellians unemployed, at all stages in their professions. They were forced to reassess their own skills, to search for jobs in new and unfamiliar fields and, ultimately, to reinvent their careers.

Reinvention isn’t a new concept in the working world. Professionals often reinvent themselves throughout their lifetimes, and in doing so they create what career development experts call “the protean career.”

“The idea of a protean career was premised on the idea of going through many different careers in our lifetimes,” says Michael Johnson-Cramer, assistant professor of management. “Pundits revent these numbers every year. The simple fact is that people are holding more jobs and changing careers with greater frequency. People once held three to seven jobs over a working lifetime. That average is closer to 10 for younger Baby Boomers. And the number is certainly going up for today’s young workers.”

Named for the mythological sea-god Proteus, who reinvented himself to avoid having to foretell the future, this concept was first introduced by Douglas Hall in his 1976 book Careers in Organizations. He defined the pursuit of a protean career as an internally motivated choice driven by aspirations of self-fulfillment. Today, as the economy dips and dives, jobs remain scarce and entire industries face collapse, the concept of a protean career is less of a choice and more of a necessity. No longer does it describe the career path of savvy workers trying to achieve personal goals. Instead, legions of sucker-punched professionals are reinventing themselves not for success, but for survival.

“You see people shape-shifting and developing themselves in different, nontraditional ways,” says Johnson-Cramer. “People have to learn to be adapters. That’s the only skill that is going to get them through this crisis.”

Adapting to changes in one’s surroundings is an instinctive human response. “Particularly in this environment, there are pockets of the economy, and subsectors of specific industries, that have been so negatively affected that no matter how you had performed in your career, the destruction that has taken place caused it to be exceptionally difficult to find a job in that specific industry,” says W. Blake Sturcke ’93. “As such, this economy has very much created a need for professionals to be much more flexible and nimble with respect to their career.”

The virtual collapse of a bank he joined in May 2008, following 15 years at Morgan Stanley and Deutsche Bank, placed Sturcke in a situation that compelled him to adapt his skillset to the new paradigm in his specialization within the investment banking industry. “Shortly after I joined, the firm came under pressure from tremendous write-downs relating to an earlier acquisition, leading to a government-led bail-out of the bank,” says Sturcke. “This unexpected series of events abruptly placed me in the worst labor market the financial services sector has seen in at least 70 years.”

Sturcke had to modify career plans. “If there aren’t opportunities in this area where I’ve worked the better part of my career, where do opportunities exist where my experience and professional assets will allow me to excel on a new career path, or at least contribute meaningfully to a firm in an interesting capacity over the near term?”

Professionals are learning that their education and experience qualifies them to work not in just one field, but in many. “The technical term is meta-competencies,” says Johnson-Cramer. “It’s not just that you’ve learned how to do something. You’ve learned how to learn how to do things. Journalists have learned how to write articles, but if they’re aware of how they learn, they can apply that skill to learning to multimedia design or web-development.”

This was a particularly challenging task for those on the final leg of their careers. Samuels, only two years from retirement, had to adjust her perception not only of the job market, but also of her own skills and experience. “Difficult as it was, I kept my options as open as possible,” she says.

Samuels took full advantage of her large network of friends and associates to find a new job in a new field. She sent e-mails to her friends and former colleagues asking for help finding a job. After a few false starts, she found a position at a company that manufactures sterile products for pharmaceuticals, “an area with which I have absolutely no familiarity,” says Samuels. “My previous employment had involved education, then medicine. This company manufactures sterile products for pharmaceutical companies. Much chemistry, which is not my thing at all.”

According to Sturcke, who is currently working in a strategy and business development role for a technology services company, focusing on meta-competencies at the expense of setting limits can pose some risk. “If you take an approach that’s more horizontal, then you could get into a ‘where do I go from here?’ situation,” he explains. “If an executive determines that she is analytical or has terrific relationship skills or is an excellent strategic thinker, but comes to a realization that those skills are relevant all across the economy, a challenge may emerge in terms of focusing energies on one or two specific industries or verticals.”

Sturcke believes that a Bucknell education, networking and the help that Bucknell can provide, provides an excellent
Some generations may be better prepared to navigate career curves than others, Johnson-Cramer says he believes the response to the current economy is, in some ways, generation-specific.

“Gen-Xers graduated from college in the early 1990s, the beginning of the tech boom, but also a deep recession,” he says. “They didn’t have jobs or the typical hiring process, and were underemployed and generally entrepreneurial. Also, corporate downsizing started to happen, so even the people who thought they had corporate jobs didn’t have secure corporate jobs.” Johnson-Cramer contends that Gen-Xers are therefore somewhat prepared for the economy’s current state of flux. “It’s not surprising to them,” he says.

Baby Boomers, says Johnson-Cramer, had a much steadier career trajectory and therefore are experiencing the current economic woes quite differently. “The first Baby Boomers graduated from college in the late 1960s. The economy was bad during that time, but it was still largely riding the boom of the post-WWII period,” he says. After college, they went to work for large companies and in the financial sector. “For the most part,” says Johnson-Cramer, “even though the world was changing around them, they followed the typical career security path.”

As parents, Baby Boomers were eager to share their secrets for success with the children of the Millennial generation. “Their career advice to their kids has been to get a good education, get an internship at a big company, get a job offer, go through your last year of college, get your degree, go to the job, work your way up, get an MBA — literally it’s mapped out for them,” says Johnson-Cramer. “Baby Boomers created amazing successes this way.”

Many Millennials enter college with a good idea of what they want to major in and what they want to do after they graduate. “I think, historically, the common advice is that you really need to determine what you want to do,” says Sturcke. “You need to have a focused job search so that you’re efficient with your time. In conversations with potential employers, you need to convey to them a sense of conviction and understanding of their business. That was traditional wisdom, and in a normal market I think that’s right. This gives you a roadmap. You can identify the companies in the industry you should be trying to talk to. There’s more of a framework to follow.”

Now, however, that roadmap is out of date for both the Millennial generation and their Baby Boomer parents. At a time when people whisper words like “recession” and “depression,” “some Baby Boomers are just as surprised as their kids are,” says Johnson-Cramer. “People in turbulent industries, like healthcare, are reaching the end of their trajectory. It’s not a given that the next step takes them further up the career chain. But they still need to bridge the next five or 10 years, somehow.”

Millennials, like the Gen-Xers before them, are being tested very early in their careers. “These are students with wonderfully admirable qualities,” says Johnson-Cramer. “They’re eager, well-networked — in some ways they’re the perfect organizational players. It’ll be interesting to see if they can convert some of the resources they have at their disposal.”

One such resource is networking. For young Buckellians who haven’t had the opportunity to excel at one career yet, much less launch a second one, being able to reach into a large pool of experienced, employed alumni is invaluable.

Sophia Leong ’09 and Kelly Hanlon ’09 both expected to get positions in the finance industry after graduating from Bucknell. “I thought I had a job lined up going into my senior year,” says Hanlon. “I interned for Goldman Sachs Operations in Jersey City over the summer and was unofficially told I would receive an offer.” But with the market crash, the job offer never materialized.

“Searching for jobs this year was nothing short of chaotic and disappointing,” remembers Leong. “I applied to numerous places and spent more time drafting cover letters than doing class work. Ultimately my work paid off, as I had several interviews — but offers were hard to come by.”

Leong and Hanlon were prepared, and educated graduating seniors who were ready to start down a career path they’d envisioned and planned for months, if not years. When the economy seemed to close off those paths, they felt frustrated and anxious. Instead of reinventing their fledgling careers, however, many young alumni are choosing to overhaul their expectations.

“These graduates are faced with a completely different dilemma: competing against people who have been done
with school for years, but are laid off or out of work and are competing for the same positions,” says Allison Hirsch ’08. “Every candidate needs some sort of an edge. It may be their GPA, their leadership skills or their internship experience. I believe that the most beneficial edge, though, is the connection they can gain from networking.”

Hirsch reached out through Bucknell’s Career Development Center to let graduating seniors know about opportunities at Lockheed Martin, where she works as a financial analyst. “At first, I was skeptical about the position because it didn’t seem to fit my perception of ‘sexy finance,’ which was investment banking and accounting,” admits Leong. “Allison helped me realize that Lockheed Martin offered opportunities beyond Wall Street, and that seemed to fit with what I wanted to do.”

Hanlon was also hesitant to apply. She didn’t have any contacts in the King of Prussia area and wasn’t thrilled with the idea of moving there. But her job search continued to stagnate, so she took the plunge and landed an interview and was glad she did. “The Bucknell connection with Allison was the only way I was made aware of this opportunity,” said Hanlon. “I would never have thought Lockheed Martin would have such a great program in finance.”

While today’s economy will undoubtedly recover and take its place in the history books alongside other perils of financial turmoil, the resourceful, determined Bucknellians who have seized the opportunity to reinvent their careers may provide a glimpse into a new, emerging workforce. Alumni of all ages are showing remarkable resilience in a difficult time, with their eyes focused on the future. “I have absolutely no regrets,” says Samuels. Proteus would be proud.

If you would like an 8x10 print of the artwork on p. 19, please send your name and address to bmagazine@bucknell.edu.
The Motor City has seen better days; its once-gleaming chrome has turned to rust. But as a boy, native son Richard Stankiewicz was inspired by Detroit’s detritus and later made a name for himself by turning junk into “witty, pungent assemblages” that played an important role in the redefinition of art in New York during the 1950s.

Students returning to campus this fall were greeted by one of Stankiewicz’s gritty works, *Australia No. 13*, a soaring sculpture of rusted steel, hollow cylindrical forms and I-beams, on the second floor of the Elaine Langone Center. The sculpture was a gift from the J. P. Morgan Chase collection through a joint program of the Business Committee for the Arts and the Association of College Museums and Galleries.

“Stankiewicz is one of the most prominent mid-century American sculptors and one of the first off anyone’s lips when speaking of sculptors associated with the Abstract Expressionist movement,” says Dan Mills, director of Bucknell’s Samek Art Gallery.

Though born in Philadelphia in 1922, Stankiewicz grew up in the shadow of the famed Dodge auto plant in Hamtramck, a municipal island literally surrounded by the city of Detroit. There, Stankiewicz said, he played beside train tracks littered with rusting, cast-off machinery.

“This is the stuff of memory that eventually emerged in his art,” writes *Detroit Metro Times* art critic Glen Mannisto.

After leaving Detroit, Stankiewicz studied briefly at the prestigious Cranbrook Art Academy, which he ultimately could not afford, before joining the Navy. He later continued his studies with painter Hans Hofman in New York, and, in Paris, with Fernand Leger, known for his bright, geometric canvases, and sculptor Ossip Zadkine.

“Over a period of more than 30 years, the witty, pungent assemblages that he pioneered in welding from bits of junk metal, and his later sculpture of more formal elegance, have retained their power and vitality,” *New York Times* art critic Grace Gluek wrote following Stankiewicz’s death at the age of 60 in 1983.

His work appears in the collections of the Museum of Modern Art, the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, the Smithsonian American Art Museum, the Whitney Museum of American Art and Los Angeles County Museum of Art.

*Australia No. 13* is the second piece of public art to be installed on the Bucknell campus during Mills’ eight-year tenure as director of the Samek. The first is Agnes Denes’ *Stelae – Messages from Another Time – Discoveries of Minds and People* (1986). The sculpture comprises two hand-carved marble tablets that depict major scientific breakthroughs and is installed on the courtyard side of the Olin Science building. The work is emblematic of Bucknell’s attention to both the liberal arts and the sciences and engineering.

Mills says the Stankiewicz work is similarly well suited to its home at Bucknell.

“He studied mechanical drawing and drafting initially. He had a more technical and architectural background,” Mills says. “Now, he is someone who students of modern contemporary art will study.”
Children
BUCKNELL STUDENTS WHO HAVE LIVED THROUGH THE WORST ARE DETERMINED TO CHANGE THEIR COUNTRIES FOR THE BETTER.

BY THERESA GAWLAS MEDOFF ’85, P’13

When elephants fight, it is the grass that suffers.

– Proverb of Kenya’s Kikuyu Tribe
S

imal Wahdat ’11 still has nightmares two or three times a week. She relives the bombings and hears the cries of the wounded whom no one can help—like Wahdat and her family were, they are huddled in their Kabul basements trying to save their own lives. Wahdat’s tears flow steadily as she describes her childhood in Afghanistan and later Pakistan, where her family went to escape the civil war that convulsed their home country. Today, she still remembers clearly the gnawing hunger and the desperate need for security as she mourns the loss of her childhood and innocence.

“Everyone was just waiting for death. I was just a child, yet I was always thinking, ‘I am the next to die,’” says Wahdat. “I remember as a seven-year-old asking my mother, ‘Does it hurt to die?’ She had no answer for me.”

As tragic as her story is, Wahdat is not alone at Bucknell, as she learned last spring when she was asked to participate in a panel discussion on Women of War. Co-panelist Zumra Balihodzic ’09 was living in Sarajevo when Bosnia erupted in battle in the early 1990s. Though she, her mother, and her brother eventually escaped to Germany, her father was captured and imprisoned in a concentration camp.

Fellow panelist Sowande Parkinson ’11 grew up in Sierra Leone, a country engulfed in civil war for nearly half of his 22 years. The main government opposition during the war came from the Revolutionary United Front, but there also were coups and attempted coups by members of the army. Parkinson suffered less than many of his countrymen because he lived in a section of the capital city of Freetown that was spared much of the violence. The war severely restricted his movement, however, and it was not until the fighting ended in 2002 that he saw the villages and rural countryside of his own country.

Like many who lived in Freetown, Parkinson vividly recalls Jan. 6, 1999, the day the war landed on his doorstep. The Armed Forces Revolutionary Council, a splinter group of Sierra Leonean soldiers, attacked the main prison in the city and freed prisoners affiliated with their rebel group.

“They came in with the objective of burning the city to the ground,” Parkinson recalls. “As they came through the city, they were killing people, torching houses, amputating people’s limbs — whatever you can think of.” Parkinson most of all feared losing his mother, who was then and remains today the center of his world and the source of his strength.

One rainy night in late March, these three students came together in Vaughan Lit.’s Trout Auditorium to tell their fellow students about the painful experiences they usually keep buried deep inside. They were brought together by Balihodzic and Rudo Mawema ’09, as part of their work for Bucknell’s Women’s Resource Center. “I think people relate better to stories when they can put a face on the situation,” says Mawema, who has previously spoken about the deteriorating situation in her native Zimbabwe.

“We met several times over several months preparing for the panel discussion,” Mawema says. “It was a kind of therapy for the speakers. They supported each other, and together they built up the confidence to actually speak in public. It makes a difference when people at Bucknell know about and take an interest in our lives, when we know that they care.”

Audience members asked questions and voiced their support. Their expressions showed mixtures of compassion, horror and disbelief. Many cried silently when they heard about their fellow students’ heartbreaking stories, like the day Balihodzic’s best friend died in her arms. They were 11 years old at the time. Though it was dangerous to venture outside, people tried to go on with their lives, and children continued to attend school. One day, Balihodzic and her friend were running from one
before being asked to speak on the panel, Parkinson had spoken about his life in Sierra Leone to very few students at Bucknell. He confided in his friend Muyambi Muyambi ’11, who grew up in Uganda, where the government continues a battle against guerrillas from the Lord’s Resistance Army that began in 1987 and is now one of Africa’s longest-running conflicts. The guerrilla group has been accused of murder, mutilation, the sexual enslavement of women and children and forcing children to become soldiers.

“It’s difficult reliving all those memories, very painful,” says Parkinson. “Muyambi and I have been able to talk about it a little, mostly in jokes. The only way to let it out is little by little.” After his experience on the panel, Parkinson says he is willing to talk again about what war has done to his country and its people.

“It’s something I owe to the world. They need to know how people suffer, how these situations turn people into animals.”

Parkinson and Muyambi met in Norway, where both were attending a Davis United World College preparatory school. Bucknell is one in a consortium of colleges and universities that accept and financially contribute to the support of Davis Scholars, who are drawn from countries throughout the world, not just those in political turmoil. In the 2008-09 school year, three students came to Bucknell through the Davis program. Last year, an additional nine matriculated. The current first-year class includes five Davis scholars. All are funded through scholarships and grants from Bucknell and the Davis program.

Wahdat came to Bucknell through the efforts of volunteer business people involved with the nonprofit group Bpeace, which helps women in Afghanistan and Rwanda start and grow small businesses in order to support their families and contribute to peace and prosperity in their communities. Wahdat was working as a translator for Bpeace in Afghanistan when she befriended an American woman who helped her get to the U.S. and, subsequently, Bucknell.

Palwasha Siddiqi ’10 also came to Bucknell through Bpeace. Born in Afghanistan, she was raised primarily in Pakistan before her family eventually returned to Kabul. She is majoring in business management and minoring in Arabic, her seventh language. Palwasha receives financial aid through a diversity scholarship founded a decade ago by trustee Dave Ekedahl ’56 and his wife, Patty P’79. This fall a third Bpeace student, Rwandan Malyse Uwase ’13, joined the first-year class.

Barihodzic came to Bucknell as a Jack Cooke Kent Scholar from Garrett Community College in western Maryland. She landed there, thanks to the friendship and support of a member of the Maryland National Guard for whom she worked as a translator when she returned to Sarajevo in 1998, after hostilities had abated. While the international community has shifted focus, the situation in Bosnia remains precarious and getting worse, Barihodzic says. She would like to return home, but her mother has told her it is not advisable.

Mawema will not be returning to her home in Zimbabwe anytime soon either. She left for Bucknell before the worst of the suffering began, and conditions there have since become untenable. The government of Robert Mugabe, Zimbabwe’s president since 1980, has been blamed for hyperinflation, chronic shortages of food and fuel, health epidemics, human rights abuses and election tampering. In 2002 the government seized farms from whites and redistributed them, leading to the further collapse of an agricultural system that once earned Zimbabwe the reputation as the breadbasket of Africa. Daily life continues to deteriorate. “There was no petrol, no food. People would spend all night waiting in line to get bread,” Mawema says of her teenage years. “It got really bad two years ago. Supermarket shelves were empty, and my mother would drive four to five hours to Mozambique to shop for groceries.”

Mawema says she and her family are luckier than most Zimbabweans. Her family has been able to avoid being endangered by the country’s cholera epidemic, for example, because they are now drawing their drinking water from their pool instead of the public water system. But she wonders what will happen when that water runs out.

The family of Jacquelin Kataneksza ’09, Mawema’s former teammate on Bucknell’s field hockey team, is experiencing these and other distressing ramifications of Mugabe’s failed rule. Kataneksza’s mother is a black South African, and her father is a white Polish immigrant. “It became a race thing in Zimbabwe when white families were told to leave their land,” she says. In 2003, when Kataneksza was 15, her family was displaced from their home near the tourist area of Kariba, where her parents made a living fishing in Lake Kariba. They were relocated to the capital city of Harare. To support themselves, they live in Mozambique for months at a time so they can fish there.

About 18 months ago, ethnic violence forced Kataneksza’s father to flee to Mozambique. Now that the political unrest has calmed a bit, he is back in Zimbabwe, but daily life continues to be difficult. “Like most everyone else in Zimbabwe, they have
Jacquelin says. “I wake up every day and feel guilty because I’m here in the U.S. where there’s so much excess and so much ignorance about social issues that matter on a much bigger scale.”

Some of the students can remember a time before war and destruction, when life was happy and their land still beautiful. They aspire to return someday to help the countries and people they love. Both Parkinson and Muyambi are studying civil engineering so that they can help to rebuild their countries’ infrastructure.

Others are studying political science, international relations or economics with a goal of working in the government or in humanitarian organizations. Years before coming to Bucknell, Balihodzic had worked as a translator for the U.S. Embassy and for U.S. peacekeepers in Bosnia. Wahdat has worked as a translator for nongovernmental organizations in Afghanistan. She also has worked in refugee camps in Pakistan as a project officer, educating women about the parliamentary process and women’s rights. Mawema has completed an internship at the World Affairs Council.

Muyambi has been active over the past few years with several initiatives related to Uganda. The summer before matriculating, he visited a refugee camp in the Gulu area in northern Uganda and interviewed people who had been affected by the civil war. That fall he organized a “Gulu Walk” at Bucknell to raise money and awareness about child soldiers. Last fall he organized a second walk and brought former Liberian child rights advocate Kimmie Weeks to speak on campus about child soldiers. He began a project called Bicycles Against Poverty, a microfinance project that provides bicycles to Ugandans so they can start their own businesses.

Once she has recovered from surgery on her knee, Kataneksza hopes to do development fieldwork with a nongovernmental organization before beginning graduate school. Wahdat, Balihodzic and Mawema plan to pursue graduate studies as well. After that, Wahdat would like to return to Afghanistan “to do something to help women. There is a lot to do,” she says. Mawema hopes to work in international diplomacy. Balihodzic aspires to become prime minister of Bosnia. “As a little child I always said ‘I am going to be the first female president of Bosnia,’” she says, “but I learned through my classes at Bucknell that a prime minister has more power in the Bosnian political system, and now my goal is to be the first female prime minister and help my country achieve its potential.”

Despite their own past trauma and the continuing conflict and uncertain futures of their countries, these students and recent alumni remain determined to use their Bucknell education to improve life in their homelands for generations to come.

Theresa Gawlas Medoff ’85, P’13 is a freelance writer and a frequent contributor to Bucknell Magazine.
Midnight Oil

While the technology has changed, late nights in the library remain a strong tradition in the Bucknell life.

Photograph by Laurie Jackson

If you would like a reprint of this photo or the photo on the back cover, please e-mail fullframe@bucknell.edu with your name and address, and we will send you a complimentary 8x10 photo.
Home is Where the Bison Are

By Jenny Ross ’05

When I had to decorate the high school classroom where I was to educate teenage minds in the wonders of literature, I decided to use the most inspirational, comforting things I could find — campus images from past Bucknell calendars and a large, orange-and-blue Bucknell pennant. Surrounded by an obsession for my alma mater, my students wonder why I ever left Lewisburg. My love for the University is evident. They may understand Lord of the Flies, but how I could have left Bucknell baffles their young minds. My words for them, which are usually so abundant, are suddenly minimal. They won’t understand my answer because, to me, Bucknell is everywhere.

My love affair with Bucknell began one rainy, August evening before I began my senior year of high school. My parents and I had arrived on campus too late for a college tour. Wanting nothing to do with my dad, who decided to take himself on an unsuccessful self-guided tour through locked buildings, I meandered through an empty campus along the pathways of the Academic Quad. We had arrived shortly after a summer rain had ended and just in time for the sun to make one final stunning effect on the day. To me, the timing of this, my first big, bold beautiful Bucknell sunset on my first Bucknell visit, was fate.

Even now, I can close my eyes and still see the sun touch the tops of the trees as it fell behind the Fieldhouse, where, as an athlete, I was to spend more time there than in my res hall. Or how the Ellen Clarke Bertrand Library (to whom I grew so close I referred to as Ellen) absorbed the sun’s final rays. No matter where I am or what my day’s annoyances, I experience a sense of Bucknell bliss.

During a between-semester break my freshman year at Bucknell, I returned to the New Jersey town where I had spent my entire existence. I had only been there a week before I yearned to go “home.” It seemed that, in mere months, I had found a new place where I belonged, a new family in which to be a part.

However, what my students won’t understand is that my idea of home, the one that Bucknell gave me, is more than just that campus in Lewisburg. It began there. It grew through four years with every friend I made, every sister my sorority gave me, every bus ride with teammates, every walk to the Freez, every Sunday brunch in the Caf, every professor who stopped to talk on campus, every nap on the library’s leather couches, every breath of the blended cow-monkey manure breeze, every moment placed in my mind’s scrapbook to document my adoration.

Now, my home roams the country like our mascot once did on the plains. It’s with my friends in New York City; my sorority sisters in Boston; my teammates in Pennsylvania. It’s with the person who passes me on the highway with a Bucknell sticker proudly clinging to the window. And the runner I pass on my bike ride who shouts a “Ray Bucknell” in my direction. It’s sprinkled in places that I have never been, like Chicago and northern California. The places I visit, like D.C. and Philadelphia.

Yet, when I lose the pack, all I do is close my eyes, watch the sun set over the Quad, catch a glimpse of the banners that adorn the original Lewisburg light posts, and read, no matter where I am, “Welcome Home.” After all, home isn’t just where the heart is; it’s where the Bison roam.

Jenny Ross teaches at St. Rose High School in Belmar, N.J., where her syllabus is sprinkled with Bucknell facts to ensure students learn what is essential.
A scholarship helped Tom Welch ’97 attend Bucknell – where he met Karen Horn ’97 on the first day of classes. They established the Welch Family Scholarship to give outstanding student-athletes with financial need access to the same great Bucknell experience. To find out how you can help make Bucknell possible for new generations, please contact Scott Rosevear at 570-577-3647.